

HWY-07-MH-007
Huntsville, AL

ATTACHMENT #5

**RECORD OF WITNESS INTERVIEW
MADELINE SCOTT
(3 Pages)**



NTSB

National Transportation Safety Board

490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW
Washington, DC 20594-0001
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**RECORD OF INTERVIEW
MADELINE SCOTT**

DATE: November 22, 2006

LOCATION: Huntsville Hospital

PRESENT: Mrs. Madeline Scott, wife of the school bus driver; NTSB Investigators Paula Sind-Prunier and Ronald Kaminski; NTSB Transportation Disaster Assistance Representative, Donald Chupp.

The school bus driver's wife advised that her husband was a full-time employee of Laidlaw School Transportation, Inc., and had been with the company for about 3 years. He has a technical degree in electronics technology, and had worked in that field before becoming a school bus driver. Although his regular route responsibilities entailed less than 40 hours per week, she stated that he frequently drove for extracurricular and activity trips, as well, such as transporting the football team. She advised that her husband was a "very cautious driver," who "loved the children" and enjoys being a school bus driver.

She advised that her husband had been involved in a prior accident involving his personally owned vehicle. She noted that he was not charged in the accident, and explained that his vehicle was struck by another vehicle whose driver was attempting to avoid a more serious collision with yet another vehicle in its path. She stated that, while she was unaware whether it was his practice when driving the school bus, he always wore a seatbelt when operating his personally owned vehicle, and insisted that his passengers do the same.

She stated that she believes her husband normally departs for work around 6:00 a.m., but cannot say for certain what time he arose and departed on the day of the accident. She is a nurse and departs their home for work around 4:30 a.m. In addition, she works home health for several clients. She states that her husband is typically still asleep when she departs in the morning, and that he was asleep when she left on the morning of the accident. She states that he does not usually eat before leaving for work, but customarily has breakfast following the completion of his morning run. They have 4 children, the eldest of whom is 19 years of age and living at home.

According to his wife, the school bus driver was out of town for the weekend preceding the accident. He drove to Talladega (about a 2-hour drive from Huntsville) on Saturday with a friend, to see the Auburn/Alabama game and visit family. He returned early Sunday evening. He went to bed around 8:30 or 9:00 p.m., and typically goes to bed around 9:00 or 9:30 p.m. She described his demeanor Sunday evening as "calm," and stated that he is a very calm person by nature who almost never spoke about his work. Specifically, he never complained to her about

problems with the students' behavior on the bus, conflicts with other drivers, etc. She stated that she rode the school bus with him on at least one occasion, and admired his calmness and patience in dealing with the students.

When queried about two-way communications in use on the bus, she stated that the school bus is equipped with a two-way radio for use in emergencies. She advised that Laidlaw has a policy that prevents its drivers from using a cell phone while driving, but added that neither she nor her husband has cell phones.

The school bus driver's wife advises that he is about 6'1" to 6'2" tall, and weighs about 350 lbs. She described him as being in good health, except for gout, for which has been seen at the University Walk-in Clinic, and for which he takes medication, as needed. She advised that he wears neither eyeglasses nor contact lenses.

She stated that she was summoned to the hospital following the accident and spoke with her husband briefly. He stated to her that he recalled his bus being hit very hard from the back, and going up on the bridge wall. He woke up in a pool of blood, but didn't realize that it was he who was bleeding. She said he could not recall whether he was en route or returning on his route, or whether there were any students were on board. At the time of our interview, he was on a respirator following surgery the day before.

Her home telephone number is .